Dear Superintendent Vianna:

About a dozen members of the Crew assembled at the trailhead/parking area near the Upper Works in Tahawus, Town of Newcomb at 8:00 AM for, what was supposed to be, a hike of a few miles to the Upper Preston Pond area to search for evidence of Colvin’s surveys of the boundaries creating the Gore lying between the north line of Totten and Crossfield's Purchase, the south line of Macomb’s Purchase and the east line of the Old Military Tract.

![Figure 1](image1.png)

![Figure 2](image2.png)

Figure 1 shows the route taken by the crew leading from the trailhead, passing Henderson Lake, crossing the divide between the Hudson and Cold River Drainage Basins to the planned search area around Upper Preston Pond.

Figure 2 - New York State Land Survey, Verplanck Colvin, Superintendent, Map Showing The Closure Of The Lines Run By Transit For The determination of the south easterly corner of the County of Franklin at the intersecting lines of the County of Essex with the True Location of the Preston Ponds (1885 Report).
Views of the Upper Preston Pond form 1896 and 2015
Plate No 31
Plate No. 32

Plate No. 31, New York State Land Survey, Upper Preston Pond, from the 1896 Report.

Plate No. 32, New York State Land Survey, Upper Preston Pond, from sketch by V. Colvin from the 1896 Report.

Photo 1 – Upper Preston Pond from Recovery 28, May 9, 2015.
Upon reaching the Upper Preston Pond the plan was to bushwhack around the westerly side of the pond in search for evidence of the Superintendent’s Surveys. Due to the thick vegetation and steep terrain along the westerly shore of the pond a decision was made to proceed along the existing trail on the east side of the pond to southerly line of the Old Military Tract and then bushwhack to the easterly shore of the Upper Pond in search for Bolt No 180.

Photo 2 – Todd Storey working his way through the blow down on his successful search for Bolt 180. Photo 4 – The Crew at the search area.

Photo 5 – Diagram (No. 35) Showing the location of the Reference Marks at the terminus of the transit line run from Westport (Sta.) on Lake Champlain to the S. W. Corner of the Old Military Tract in 1881 by Verplanck Colvin with Primary Triangulation Station No. 180.

Photo 6 by T. Storey showing close up of Primary Triangulation Station No. 180
The transit line run by V. Colvin, Superintendent, in 1881 from Westport on Lake Champlain traces the south boundary of the Old Military Tract to the south west corner of the tract in the Upper Preston Pond. In 1884 the Superintendent located the flag at the terminus of the 1881 line run along said south boundary and the flag at the easterly terminus of the line run by Snell from the Raquette River to the westerly side of Upper Preston Pond from the Triangulation Station on Mt. Henderson (today’s McNaughton Mt.). Bolt 180 was set in the existing (1881) drill hole and occupied by the Superintendent in 1898.

The note shown below is a blowup of the note shown on the map in Figure 2.

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**NOTE.**

LINE run by transit over the mountains from Lake Champlain traces the south boundary of the Old Military tract to the south-west corner of that tract in the Upper Preston pond. This line was run by Verplanck Colvin, Superintendent.

LINE traversed with Transit along the east boundary of the County of Franklin (Townships No. 24 and No. 27 in great tract No. 1 of Macomb’s purchase) from Saranac Lakes to County corner was run by M. Blake, Assistant.

LINE traversed by Transit from Raquette River to south-west corner of the Old Military tract, along the north boundary of Totten & Crossfield’s purchase, was run by S. H. Snell and N. L. Rush.

ALL of these lines were traced to the same corner in the Upper Preston Pond. HEIGHTS of Bench Marks have been determined by lines of Geodetic levels of Adirondack Survey, and are given in English feet above the mean tide datum at Governors Island, New York Harbor.

**DECLINATION OF THE NEEDLE.**

Large deposits of magnetic iron ore occur in this section. The magnetic variation, consequently, changes (with apparent irregularity) on changing locality.

At the Azimuth stations at the Preston Ponds the following declinations (“Magnetic variations”) were observed.

At station A Declination = 8° 33’ 8 West.
“ “ B “ = 9° 22’ 8 “
“ “ C “ = 7° 02’ 8 “

Each of the above being the mean of Observations at each Station, September 22nd 1884.

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**Photo 7**

Photo by T. Storey looking westerly across Upper Preston Pond from Bolt 180.

**Photo 8**

Crew members resting for the return trip.
After a successful recovery the crew reversed the path taken and returned to the trailhead. The weather that day was very warm for the early part of May, although some shady places were still covered with snow. Thankfully the bugs were not a problem. The hike turned out to be longer than I had estimated; most of the crew was dehydrated and tired upon returning to our vehicles.

Crew Photo by T. Storey upon returning to the trailhead

L to R kneeling – Todd Storey, Rob Harris, Shirley Ware, Randy Paquin
L to R standing - Herb Terns (Times Union), David Ware, Paul Miller, Jeff Storey, Brian Magee, Jim Schaller, Bonnie Schaller, Richard Bennett

Respectively Submitted
Richard Bennett, L.S.